

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2 and 3. Please amend claim 4.

1. (Original) A multiple-ply bag comprising:
a tubular multi-wall structure having upper and lower ends, the upper and lower ends being sealable;
front and back walls joined at opposite bag sides by at least two side gussets running the length of the bag; and,
an outer ply layer of said multi-wall bag having a base layer of a kraft paper, a layer of polyethylene applied to an exterior side of said kraft layer, and, an outermost layer of a biaxially oriented thermoplastic polymer applied to the polyethylene layer, said outermost layer further defining a printable surface.
- 2 (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) A multiple-ply paper bag comprising a plurality of paper plies, wherein paper ply layers are secured together only along exposed edges of the overlapping plies, the main body portion of the bag having multiple plies which are substantially unsecured to adjacent plies along the front, rear, and side walls of a multiple-ply bag:
an inner ply layer comprising a paper having a laminated surface, the laminated surface defining an innermost surface of the multiple-ply bag;
a second ply layer of an uncoated paper ~~adjacent~~ positioned between an uncoated surface of said inner ply[;] and a third ply layer, said [a] third ply layer of comprising an uncoated paper positioned between said second ply layer and a fourth ply layer, said fourth ply layer defining an exterior paper ply of said multiple-ply bag, said fourth ply layer further ~~defining~~ having a coating of a 5 to 15 lb. weight/3000 sq. ft. of polyethylene and a film layer applied to a surface of said polyethylene, said film layer comprising a biaxially oriented film selected from the group consisting of a biaxially oriented polypropylene film, a biaxially oriented polyethylene film, a metallized film of biaxially oriented polypropylene, and a metallized film of biaxially oriented polyester;

wherein said multiple-ply bag has increased burst resistance and improved tear strength than a comparable four-ply bag without said film layer.

5. (Original) The multiple-ply bag according to claim 4 wherein said fourth ply layer comprises a paper having a fiber content of about a 35 to about a 90 lb. basis weight.
6. (Original) The multiple-ply bag according to claim 4 wherein said fourth ply has a film layer selected from the group consisting of metallized films of biaxially oriented polypropylene and metallized films of biaxially oriented polyester, said multiple-ply bag further having a WVTR of about 0.01 g/100 in.²/24 hrs. or less.
7. (Original) The multiple-ply bag according to claim 4 wherein at least one of said second and said third ply layers is provided by a converter kraft paper.
8. (Original) The multiple-ply bag according to claim 4 wherein said second ply and said third ply are provided by a converter kraft paper.